

Deer Progress Report

April 11, 2011

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and the Wildlife Management Section

Accomplishments for Week of April 3 - 9

Monitoring Winter Severity – Staff monitored winter conditions [temperature, snow depths, deer sinking depths, and snow profile characteristics] at 26 individual monitoring stations throughout the state to estimate the impact of winter conditions on deer mortality.

Aerial DWA Surveys – Regions have pretty much terminated aerial DWA surveys for the winter because deer are no longer restricted to winter yards.

DWA Harvest Plans – Region F conducted a site visit with a consulting forester reference DWAs in Bradford.

Cooperative DWA Management – Region C continued consultations with Downeast Lakes Land Trust, Bureau of Parks and Lands, and Passamaquoddy Nation reference a riparian-based DWA / travel corridor landscape development proposal. Mapped historical information will be discussed at their next meeting.

Deer Research, Surveys, and Data Collections - As

received, staff continues to examine and collect road-killed does and the number of fetuses per female to derive an index to female productivity and to provide information on breeding chronology. Regions D, E, and G collectively processed fetuses from 6 does.

Deer Feeding Complaints / Discussions – All regions continued to respond to issues / questions as they arise.

Areas of High Road Mortality – All regions continue to work with the Maine Department of Transportation to install signage in areas of high deer road mortality.

- Region C summarized remaining work on highway signs installed at 6 high incidence sites in the region and advocated for pursuing accessory lighting to increase effectiveness of signage using Maine Outdoor Heritage and/or federal highway funds.
- Region E investigated deer / vehicle collisions in the town of Guilford.
- Regions F and G worked with Division staff, Warden Service, and Maine DOT to install signage warning motorists of deer near the Sherman Exit 264 off I-95.



Predation Issues / Incidences – All regions monitor and direct response as predation incidences are reported including developing correspondence, contracts, report forms, and maps for hunters deployed to predation sites.

Information and Outreach – All regions respond to numerous deer-related inquiries, questions, and requests for information.

- Region B presented *Maine's Game Plan for Deer* to the Sheepscot Fish and game Club in Palermo.
- Region D presented a DWA Management talk to 10 loggers at a Certified Loggers Program.
- Region G worked the Presque Isle Sportsman's Show on Sunday, April 3rd.

Other Successes, Partnerships, Issues, and Events

- Region C investigated a report of deer with a section of page wire fence around its neck and consulted with a landowner about concerns with past incidents of deer in strawberries..

Planned Activities for Week of April 11

Monitoring Winter Severity – Staff will continue monitoring winter conditions [temperature, snow depths, deer sinking depths, and snow profile characteristics] at 26 individual monitoring stations throughout the state to estimate the impact of winter conditions on deer mortality.

DWA Harvest Plans – As opportunities arise, regional staff will review plans for timber harvesting in DWAs.

Cooperative DWA Management – Staff continue to work with landowners on cooperative DWA management. This work will intensify once aerial surveys are completed this winter and DWAs digitized.

Deer Research, Surveys, and Data Collections - As received, staff will continue examining and collecting road-killed does and the number of fetuses per female to derive an index to female productivity and to provide information on breeding chronology.

Information and Outreach – Region E will investigate concerns over a land sale in Sebec that includes a DWA.

Deer Feeding Complaints / Discussions – All regions will continue to respond to issues as they arise.

Predation Issues / Incidences – All regions will continue monitoring and directing response as predation incidences are reported.

